



Labor, lifestyle, and Los Angeles all within your reach!

May 19, 2011

Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Attn: Mr. Trevor Joseph

RE: SUPPORT FOR GRANT FUNDING OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY INTEGRATED
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
PROPOSITION 84 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT, ROUND 1, APPLICATION - Antelope Valley -
East Kern Water Agency (Project Proponent) Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP- 2)

Dear Mr. Joseph:

On behalf of the Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance (GAVEA) I want to express our support of the Antelope Valley East-Kern Water Agency's (AVEK's) request for funding for development of the Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP- 2 Project) aimed at improving water recharge and recovery operations within the Antelope Valley Region.

GAVEA represents a membership composed of the cities of, Palmdale, Lancaster, Tehachapi, California City, and Ridgecrest. In addition, rural communities such as Rosamond and Mojave are enjoined with GAVEA, acting as the Regional Economic Development entity; encompassing over 3,000 square miles with a population of almost 500,000 California citizens. In addition, the area is known for its contribution to our Nation's defense and security with innovation like no other place in the world. Edwards Air Force base (a 300,000 acre bastion of our nation's pride), Plant 42 and Mojave Space Port have over 20,000 employees, all located in the Antelope Valley. One cannot deny the strategic importance of these companies and this area; not only are they vital to our national defense, but the mainstay of the Antelope Valley's economy and in a greater sense, to California's economy.

Several years ago, leaders and agencies in the Antelope Valley Region recognized the need for regional cooperation and planning with respect to preserving the future of water resources. Water resource needs within the Antelope Valley Region are highly interconnected and require a broad and integrated approach in order to meet future needs of the Region and ultimately the broader interests of Southern California.

1028 West Ave. L-12 #101 Lancaster, CA 93534

661/945-2741 FAX 661/945-7711

www.aveconomy.org

The Proposed WSSP-2 Project enhances water supply reliability and flexibility through a water bank/water market that can help reduce the rate of groundwater aquifer overdraft and encourage conjunctive water use locally and inter-regionally. The Project will implement a water bank as a mechanism to make water available to meet the existing water supply and ensure the reliability of future demands. This WSSP-2 Project will also help to provide the operational flexibility that many agencies need in order to provide a constant and reliable level of service to their customers.

The development of the WSSP-2 Project including recharge, recovery, and recovery pipeline facilities, is an imported water stabilization program that utilizes State Water Project California Aqueduct water delivered to the Antelope Valley for groundwater recharge and provides a supplemental supply required for the region during summer peaking demand and anticipated dry years. The Proposed Project includes additional facilities necessary for the delivery of untreated water for direct recharge (via recharge basins) and for wells and pipeline for treated water conveyance.

A total of 20 percent of the Antelope Valley Region, which is serviced by AVEK, is comprised of Disadvantaged Community (DACs). The Proposed Project provides a direct benefit to several of the communities who rely on the Region's common water resources. Therefore, I am interested in and supportive of this Project which will improve water management and efficiency in the area. I understand and believe that implementation of the Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP-2) will provide the regional and local water improvements that merit my support.

Finally, it is our desire that this letter of support will assist in your efforts to secure grant funding assistance to implement these types of critical projects. If the funding agency would like to discuss my interest and support for this Project, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Byrne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.